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COMOR-D-24/30

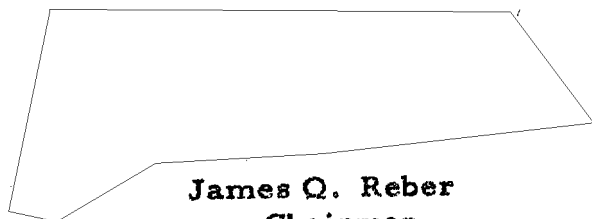
14 November 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

SUBJECT: Long-Range Plan for Aerial Reconnaissance
of Cuba

1. The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence has instructed COMOR to develop a long-range surveillance program for Cuba.

2. The attached paper prepared by the CIA member is submitted to COMOR for its consideration and approval. It is designed to meet the headquarter's intelligence requirements in the present situation. However, it may aid in developing a long-range surveillance program for Cuba as requested by the Deputy Director.



James Q. Reber
Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

25X1

Attachment:
Subject paper

Copies: 2, 3--State TCO

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Recommended Program for Photographic Coverage of Cuba

Offensive Missiles

1. The evidence of deactivation of the IRBM and MRBM sites coupled with observation of missiles and missile associated equipment either on the docks or aboard ships, makes daily BLUE MOON coverage of the deactivated sites no longer necessary. Coverage of ports should be continued as recommended below. Daily coverage of roads associated with sites is no longer needed. If the Soviets are resorting to subterfuge and offensive missiles remain in the Island we feel certain that no evidence of this will be found in the immediate vicinity of vacated sites.

2. It is recommended that:

a. All ports where missiles are being loaded be covered by BLUE MOON on a daily basis until the ships loading missiles have put to sea;

b. When ships capable of carrying missiles arrive at ports, daily BLUE MOON coverage be reinstated;

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c. Each of the suspect caves be covered
once as follows:

(1) BLUE MOON

(2) Low level night photography

d. The entire island be covered once a
week by BRASS KNOB photography.

IL-23

3. It is recommended that San Julian and Helguin Airfields
be covered on a daily basis by BLUE MOON. This could be augmented
by low level night photography if the pace of assembling the bombers
is accelerated. The added factor of harrassment might be considered
at this point.

MIG-21's

4. Reports have been received that some of the fighter
aircraft in Cuba have an AI and rockets or air-to-air missiles
capability. It is most probable that this capability would be on the
MIG-21's. [REDACTED]

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5. In order to keep track of the number and disposition
of MIG-21's, it is necessary to cover airfields supporting them
twice a week. This could be accomplished by BRASS KNOB. If

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BRASS KNOB does not provide this coverage, BLUE MOON should be substituted. Also, on the basis of BRASS KNOB or other information showing major concentrations of MIG-21's, occasional BLUE MOON's should be flown in the hope that information pertinent to the A1, missile or nuclear capability will show up.

SA-2

6. Based on experience to date, we consider that normal BRASS KNOB coverage will be adequate to keep track of any changes in the general SA-2 picture. BLUE MOON photography has provided some good technical detail and selective coverage by BLUE MOON can still add a great deal. This will be particularly true if the BLUE MOON vehicles are equipped with ELINT equipment capable of providing recordings of SA-2 guidance system tracking of the vehicle. This use of BLUE MOON offers an unparalleled opportunity to obtain intelligence on the low altitude capabilities of the Soviet SA-2 as well as the overall Cuban air defense system.

Coastal Defense and Military Establishments

7. It is recommended that coastal defense installations and military encampments or installations be covered once a week. Hopefully BRASS KNOB can do this. Any changes that show up and cannot be analyzed in the BRASS KNOB photography should be covered

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by BLUE MOON. Also, if weather precludes BRASS KNOB coverage on the order of once a week, BLUE MOON should be considered to fill the gaps, depending on an overall intelligence evaluation of the situation.

Landing Beaches and Drop Bases

8. It is recommended that these be covered once a week by BRASS KNOB. If BRASS KNOB does not achieve satisfactory coverage over a long period, two weeks or more, BLUE MOON should be used to fill the gaps.

Unidentified Installations

9. There are a total of 5 installations identified in photography during the past 2 weeks for which we have not been able to assign a function. It is necessary to continue coverage of these until they can be properly categorized and it can be determined whether they are sufficiently important to require more than the periodic BRASS KNOB.

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